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To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Marine Life Protection Initiative Act

There is a great need for these new marine reserves to be established before it is too late. The fishing industry has already depleted many species of fish and other marine animals to the point where the survival of many species is already in doubt. I scuba dive regularly in Monterey, Carmel, Point Lobos and the Channel Islands. Over the past decade and a half the number of rockfish, ling cod, cabezon and many other species that one frequently observes in the kelp forest has dramatically decreased. It is vital that we establish areas where the young fish can safely grow and mature. Many California fish species are slow growing and do not mature until they are fairly old.

Having caught most of the largest, mature fish the fishing industry is now taking the younger fish before they get a chance to become sexually mature. This has to stop or we will face the situation that over fishing has caused for cod, tuna, anchovies, herring, Chilean toothfish and numerous other commercial species that the fishing industry claimed to be "managing" in a responsible way. The industry groups that oppose the creation of the reserves need to understand that soon there will be no fishing industry if they continue in the current manner.

I strongly encourage the task force to propose the creation of as many reserves as possible.

Regards

Jon Bertsch